

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11, 12 and 14-18, of which claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 are independent. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

In the outstanding Official Action, dependent claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 were identified as reciting patentable subject and as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the Examiner will appreciate, claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 have been rewritten into independent form in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 is now in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of claims 3, 6, 12 or 15. Accordingly, each of those claims is patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Claims 7, 8, 16 and 17 have been identified as being directed to a non-elected embodiment and, thus, withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that since of those dependent claims now ultimately depends from an allowable claim, these claims are likewise in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the election requirement and reinstatement of claims 7, 8, 16 and 17 is deemed appropriate and the most expeditious means of advancing prosecution.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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